

**We Claim:**

- 1        1.    A package for retaining at least one crystal for use in a vacuum deposition processing apparatus, said package comprising a tray portion having a plurality of vertically disposed supporting slots for retaining a said crystal; and
  - 5                a cover portion rotatably mounted in overlaying fashion relative to said tray portion, said cover portion including a slotted opening permitting alignment with at least one vertically disposed supporting slot of said tray portion.
- 1        2.    A package according to Claim 1, wherein said tray portion is circular.
- 1        3.    A package according to Claim 1, wherein each vertically disposed supporting slot is configured to retain a said crystal only at the peripheral edges of said crystal.
- 1        4.    A package according to Claim 1, including means for retaining a crystal removal tool.
- 1        5.    A package according to Claim 4, wherein said removal tool is releasably attached to said package.
- 1        6.    A package according to Claim 2, wherein a plurality of said crystal packages can be stacked for storage.
- 1        7.    A package according to Claim 6, wherein a plurality of said packages can be stacked vertically.

1        8.    A package according to Claim 3, wherein each vertically  
2 disposed supporting slot includes an inner wall and an outer wall, said inner  
3 wall having an inward recess.

1        9.    A package according to Claim 5, wherein said removal tool  
2 includes a vertical slot that can be aligned with a vertically disposed  
3 supporting slot.

1        10.   A package according to Claim 3, wherein each vertically  
2 disposed supporting slot includes an inner wall and an outer wall, said outer  
3 wall including a center scalloped region to permit access to a supported  
4 crystal.

1        11.   A package according to Claim 1, including a detent mechanism  
2 for permitting the slotted opening of the cover portion to be indexed to a  
3 plurality of radial positions relative to the tray portion.

1        12.   A package according to Claim 2, wherein each of said  
2 supporting slots are substantially equally spaced between each other in a  
3 circumferential manner with the exception of a larger spacing between at  
4 least two of said slots defining a position for aligning initially with said slotted  
5 opening of said cover portion.

1        13.   A method for plurality of disc-like crystals for use in vacuum  
2 deposition processing apparatus, each of said crystals having an active  
3 center region on one side thereof, said method including the steps of:  
4            providing a package having a plurality of vertically arranged slots on a  
5 tray portion, each of said slots including means for retaining a said crystal  
6 without contacting the center region of said crystal, said package further  
7 including a cover covering said slots;  
8            rotating said cover about said tray portion until a slotted opening of  
9 said cover is aligned with a vertical slot; and  
10          removing a said crystal.

1           14.    A method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said removing step  
2   includes the step of using a pair of tweezers.

1           15.    A method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said removing step  
2   includes the step of removing a said crystal using a removal tool.

1           16.    A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein said removal tool  
2   includes a vertical slot, said removing step further including the step of  
3           aligning said vertical slot with the aligned openings of said package  
4   and allowing said crystal to be retained by said tool.

1           17.    A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein said removal tool is  
2   provided on said package.